

ACTIVIST NEWS

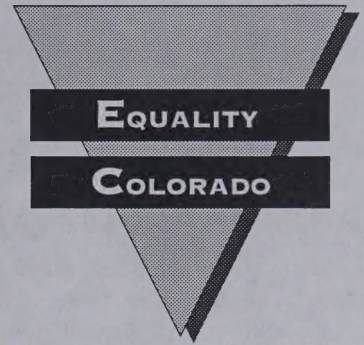
A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO

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FEBRUARY 1998

3 BIG BILLS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

On January 27-29, three important bills were introduced into the Colorado State House of Representatives. Rep. Penfield Tate (D-Denver) got the ball rolling with HB 1268, the Hate Crimes bill, which would add the categories of sexual orientation, age, and disability to the state's Ethnic Intimidation statute. It will be heard first in the House Judiciary Committee, which it passed out of last year. Its Senate sponsor is Dorothy Rupert (D-Boulder). Rep. Gloria Leyba (D-Denver) has reintroduced her bill (HB 1270) adding sexual orientation to state civil rights statutes — and this year's bill is broader than last year's "employment only" bill. It will be heard in the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee. Senate sponsor is Gloria Tanner (D-Denver). And once again, Marilyn Musgrave (R-Ft. Morgan) has introduced her anti-marriage bill, to be heard in the generally conservative House State Affairs Committee.

ACTION!

- ▶ See our sheet on legislative issues, which includes details and talking points on each of these bills, plus other Equality issues.
- Stay tuned to Equality for updates on committee hearings and floor votes. Call us to make sure you're on our phone tree.
- Equality Lobby's annual fundraiser, **A Capitol Affair**, will be March 26, 5 p.m. at JBeatty's, 321 E. Colfax in Denver. \$25.

Commission Hearings on Domestic Partners

As previously reported, the Governor's Commission on the Rights and Responsibilities of Same-Sex Couples — also known as the Domestic Partnership Commission — will be holding hearings around the state to gather testimony on what real-life couples in Colorado are going through, and also to see what the public thinks about domestic partner rights. Those hearings will be held on March 4, from 7-9 p.m. in:

Greeley • Plaza One Room • Best Western Ramkota Inn • 701 8th St.

Denver • Location TBA. Call or email Equality before hearing.

Vail Valley • Singletree Community Center • 1010 Berry Creek Rd. • Edwards

Pueblo • Fortino Grand Hall • Pueblo Convention Center • 320 Central Main St.

Grand Junction • Fireside Room • White Hall • 600 White Ave.

OUTSIDE METRO AREA?

Tired of those expensive calls to Denver to put pressure on your elected officials? Call your legislators using the new capitol toll-free numbers!

House: 800-811-7647

Senate: 888-473-8136

ACTION!

- ▶ Help Equality get a large turnout and great testimony! Contact us for more info.

CLIP Helps Students Sue District

On January 22, Colorado Legal Initiatives Project filed a lawsuit on behalf of HHART (Homosexual-Heterosexual Alliance Reaching for Tolerance), a Smoky Hill High School student group, against the Cherry Creek School District. The group has experienced censorship of its promotional materials and a refusal to be provided with benefits that all other clubs receive, and are claiming a violation of the students' Constitutional Rights to free speech and equal treatment.

ACTION!

- ▶ Write a letter to the editor of the *Post* or the *News* urging that the club be treated fairly. Those who live in the Cherry Creek School District are encouraged to write the School Board directly at 4700 S. Yosemite St., Englewood, CO 80111.

Feb. 12 Is Freedom to Marry Day

In honor of National Freedom to Marry Day, there will be several activities in Colorado.

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m., Denver • "Celebrating Family," a potluck supper, resource fair, and community discussion on gay and lesbian families and the freedom to marry. MCC of the Rockies, 980 Clarkson St. Sponsored by Equality Colorado, PFLAG, MCC, and CLIP.

Friday, Feb. 13, noon, Boulder • Presentation on "A Comparison of the Same-Sex Marriage Movement and the Interracial Marriage Movement." University of Colorado. Call Robert at (303) 492-4036.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Boulder • A gathering of couples interested in pursuing litigation following a (hopefully) successful Hawaii Supreme Court decision. MCC Boulder, 2560 Table Mesa Dr. Call Jeremy at (303) 444-9453 or email JeremyBear@aol.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Fort Collins • Lambda Community Center will sponsor an update on the Hawaii situation at the Hope Center, 301 E. Olive.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Grand Junction • The Mesa State Psychology Club will sponsor a panel discussion on same-sex marriage. Mesa State College, Liff Auditorium.

Register to Vote NOW!

If you have not yet registered to vote, remember that 1998 is a very important election year. Here are some dates to remember. **April 7** is the party caucuses in Colorado. You must be registered in a given party by **February 6** to participate in this important process for choosing delegates to party conventions. Remember, the anti-gay right uses this process to select anti-gay candidates. Let's use it for our benefit!

ACTION! Call your County Clerk & Recorder for registration information.

Lambda Community Center Move

The Lambda Community Center in Fort Collins is preparing to move its offices closer to downtown. It will now be located next to NCAP at 147 W. Oak, #2.

ACTION! Join LCC for its Open House, 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, February 8. Also, the Center is selling "bricks" to help lay the foundation for its future well-being. Call Terry at (970) 221-3247 for more information.

Betty DeGeneres Brunch

Join the Colorado Federal Club (HRC) and PFLAG Denver for brunch at the Brown Palace Hotel, Sunday Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special Guest will be Betty DeGeneres, HRC's National Coming Out Project spokesperson. Cost is \$35 per person with a cash bar.

Proceeds to benefit Youth Services at GLBCSCC.

ACTION! Reservations required by calling "Box Office Tickets" at 800-222-1234 no later than Feb. 18.

Lobby Day Round-Up

Eighty people, including several legislators, attended Equality Colorado's first legislative brunch on January 23. Keynote speaker Dave Pallone gave a compelling speech about the need for protection from discrimination and hate crimes. Previously, many of the attendees also attended our legislative coffee and morning trainings on the legislative process.

ACTION! Face-to-face meetings with legislators are still the best way to get your point across. Call or email us to help set up meetings with **your** elected officials.

EQUALITY CALENDAR

Equality maintains an updated list of our upcoming events on our voice mail line. Please call us at (303) 839-5540 x4.

February 1998

5 • AURORA HOUSE PARTY FOR JUSTICE 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., 2153 S. Eagle St. Meet other Aurora activists & legislators, and learn about & support Equality's work.

14 • VOICES OF FAITH WORKSHOP "Spirituality and Relationships" • 9 a.m. - Noon. Presented by Dr. Anna Spradlin and Rev. Laurene Lafontaine.

14 • MORGAN COUNTY VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE Call or email Equality for more information.

14 • WESTERN EQUALITY DANCE Grand Junction. Call (970) 242-8949.

March 1998

4 • GOVERNOR'S DOMESTIC PARTNER COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARINGS 7-9 p.m. in Denver, Greeley, Grand Junction, Pueblo, and Edwards.

14 • SPEAKERS PROJECT TO END DISCRIMINATION TRAINING 10 am - 2 pm Call SPED, (303) 832-6647.

16 • FC/NORTHERN COLORADO COALITION MEETING 7:00, Lambda Community Center. (970) 221-3247.

19 • METRO PRIDE NETWORK MEETING Gender Identity Center. Network & discuss organizations' upcoming events.

26 • A CAPITOL AFFAIR Equality Lobby's annual fundraiser. 5 p.m. at JBeatty's, 321 E. Colfax in Denver. \$25 (donations not tax-deductible).

April 1998

4 • AVP TRAIN THE TRAINER Call us for more info!

4 • GREELEY "COMING OUT PARTY" Sponsored by Second Mondays. Call Equality at (303) 839-5540.